

REMARKS

Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

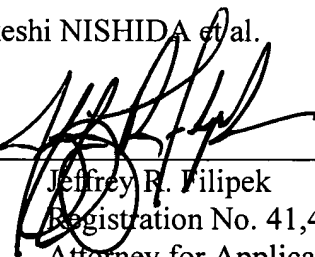
Minor editorial amendments have been made to the specification. No new matter has been added.

The above claim amendments are presented in order to remove multiple claim dependencies, so as to reduce the required filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Takeshi NISHIDA et al.

By



Jeffrey R. Filipek

Registration No. 41,471

Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
January 27, 2006